

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-7, and add new claims 8-26, as follows:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (New) A process for producing an isocyanate comprising initially phosgenating an amine with a mixture comprising phosgene and hydrogen chloride, wherein said amine is obtained from an amine feed stream, wherein said mixture is obtained from a phosgene/hydrogen chloride feed stream and comprises hydrogen chloride in an amount of from 1.3 wt. % to less than 10 wt. % based on the total weight of phosgene and hydrogen chloride present within said mixture.

Claim 9 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said initially phosgenating comprises mixing said amine with said mixture for a period of from 0.0001 seconds to 5 seconds.

Claim 10 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said initially phosgenating comprises reacting said amine with said mixture for a period of from 10 seconds to 15 hours.

Claim 11 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said initially phosgenating is carried out at a temperature ranging from 25°C to 260°C.

Claim 12 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said initially phosgenating is carried out at a pressure ranging from 0.9 bar to 400 bar.

Claim 13 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said isocyanate is selected from the group consisting of tolylene diisocyanate, monomeric methylenedi(phenyl isocyanate), polymeric methylenedi(phenyl isocyanate), hexamethylene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, diisocyanatomethylcyclohexane, di(isocyanatocyclohexyl)methane, xylylene diisocyanate, diisocyanatocyclohexane, naphthyl diisocyanate, R,S-1-phenylethyl isocyanate, 1-methyl-3-phenylpropyl isocyanate, n-pentyl isocyanate, 6-methyl-2-heptane isocyanate, and cyclopentyl isocyanate.

Claim 14 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 13, wherein said isocyanate is selected from the group consisting of tolylene diisocyanate, monomeric methylenedi(phenyl isocyanate), and polymeric methylenedi(phenyl isocyanate).

Claim 15 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 13, wherein said isocyanate is selected from the group consisting of hexamethylene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, diisocyanatomethylcyclohexane, di(isocyanatocyclohexyl)methane, xylylene diisocyanate, diisocyanatocyclohexane, and naphthyl diisocyanate.

Claim 16 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 13, wherein said isocyanate is selected from the group consisting of R,S-1-phenylethyl isocyanate, 1-methyl-3-phenylpropyl isocyanate, n-pentyl isocyanate, 6-methyl-2-heptane isocyanate, and cyclopentyl isocyanate.

Claim 17 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein a molar ratio of said phosgene to a total number of amine groups of said amine is from 1.1:1 to 12:1.

Claim 18 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said amine is a primary amine.

Claim 19 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said amine is present in said amine feed stream in an amount of from 1 wt. % to 50 wt. %.

Claim 20 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said amine feed stream further comprises an inert solvent.

Claim 21 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 20, wherein said inert solvent is one or more organic solvents selected from the group consisting of chlorobenzene, dichlorobenzene, toluene, trichlorobenzene, benzene, diethyl isophthalate, tetrahydrofuran (THF), dimethylformamide (DMF), and hexane.

Claim 22 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 21, wherein said inert solvent is one or more organic solvents selected from the group consisting of chlorobenzene, dichlorobenzene, and toluene.

Claim 23 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said initially phosgenating is carried out in a continuous process, a semi-continuous process, or a batch process.

Claim 24 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 23, wherein said initially phosgenating is carried out in a continuous process.

Claim 25 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said initially phosgenating is carried out in a liquid phase.

Claim 26 (New) The process for producing an isocyanate according to claim 8, wherein said phosgene/hydrogen chloride feed stream is obtained from a phosgene feed stream and a hydrogen chloride feed stream.